

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the above -identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 17-22, 24-46, without prejudice to renewal.

(original) 1. A prosthetic intervertebral disc comprising:

top and bottom endplates; and

a fibrous compressible element positioned between said top and bottom endplates, wherein said compressible element has a configuration that includes an annular region and a nuclear region;

wherein said top and bottom end plates are held together by at least one fiber wound around at least one region of said top end plate and at least one region of said bottom end plate.

(original) 2. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said top and bottom endplates comprise mating surfaces for interfacing with upper and lower vertebral body fixation elements.

(original) 3. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said top and bottom endplates further comprise integrated upper and lower vertebral body fixation elements.

(original) 4. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said top and bottom endplates each comprise a plurality of peripheral slots through which one or more fibers of said fibrous compressible element pass through to hold said top and bottom end plates together.

(original) 5. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 4, wherein said fibrous compressible element comprises a fibrous component that is limited to said annular region.

(original) 6. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 4, wherein said fibrous compressible element comprises a fibrous component that extends into at least a portion of said nuclear region.

(original) 7. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 4, wherein said fibrous compressible element comprises a fiber winding pattern that includes at least a component which is oblique with respect to the planar surfaces of the top and bottom plates.

(original) 8. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 7, wherein said fiber winding pattern further includes a component that is horizontal or vertical with respect to the planar surfaces of the top and bottom plates.

(original) 9. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 7, wherein said fibrous compressible element further comprises a three-dimensional woven fabric component.

(original) 10. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said fibrous compressible element further comprises at least one polymeric component.

(original) 11. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said at least one polymeric component is impregnated with fibers of said fibrous compressible element.

(original) 12. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said at least one polymeric component is not impregnated with fibers of said fibrous compressible element.

(original) 13. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said at least one polymeric component is present in said nucleus region.

(original) 14. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said at least one polymeric component is present in said annular region.

(original) 15. The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said disc comprises at least two different polymeric components.

(original) 16. A system for replacing an intervertebral disc with a prosthetic intervertebral disc, said system comprising:

(a) a prosthetic intervertebral disc comprising:

- (i) top and bottom endplates; and
- (ii) a fibrous compressible element positioned between said top and bottom endplates, wherein said compressible element has a configuration that includes an annular region and a nuclear region;

wherein said top and bottom end plates are held together by at least one fiber wound around at least one region of said top end plate and at least one region of said bottom end plate; and

- (b) at least one of:

- (i) upper and lower vertebral body fixation elements that mate respectively with said top and bottom endplates; and
- (ii) a disc delivery device.

17-22 Canceled

(original) 23. A kit for use in replacing an intervertebral disc with a prosthetic intervertebral disc, said kit comprising:

- (a) a prosthetic intervertebral disc comprising:

- (i) top and bottom endplates; and
- (ii) a fibrous compressible element positioned between said top and bottom endplates, wherein said compressible element has a configuration that includes an annular region and a nuclear region;

wherein said top and bottom end plates are held together by at least one fiber wound around at least one region of said top end plate and at least one region of said bottom end plate; and

- (b) instructions for using said prosthetic intervertebral disc.

24- 46. Canceled

47. A method for replacing a intervertebral disc with a prosthetic intervertebral disc, said method comprising:

- (a) removing an intervertebral disc from a subject to produce a void disc space; and
- (b) implanting into said void disc space a prosthetic intervertebral disc comprising:

- (i) top and bottom endplates; and
- (ii) a fibrous compressible element positioned between said top and bottom endplates, wherein said compressible element has a configuration that includes an annular region and a nuclear region;

wherein said top and bottom end plates are held together by at least one fiber wound around at least one region of said top end plate and at least one region of said bottom end plate.

48. The method according to Claim 47, wherein an implantation device is employed to implant said prosthetic intervertebral disc into said void disc space.